

### **REMARKS**

The Office Action dated January 15, 2008, has been received and carefully reviewed. The preceding amendments and the following remarks form a full and complete response thereto. Claim 10 is amended as to matters of form. No new matter is added. Accordingly, claims 10-12 are pending in the application and submitted for reconsideration.

The Applicant's representative thanks the Examiner for taking time to discuss the application on April 11, 2008.

Claim 10 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,653,362 issued to Gerber. Claims 11 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,653,362 issued to Gerber. The Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection and submits that claims 10-12 recite subject matter that is neither disclosed nor suggested by Gerber.

As discussed, Gerber fails to disclose the claimed method and, in fact, teaches away from these claimed features. In particular, in column 8, lines 15-18, Gerber discloses that if pattern pieces are beginning to fuse to each other, the heat output is lowered. Thus, Gerber teaches away from the claimed method of welding the sheet members to be cut, and then cutting the members along cutting lines after the welding step has been performed. Thus, the Applicant submits that the rejections to claims 10-12 are improper. Accordingly, the Applicant requests that the rejections be withdrawn and claims 10-12 be allowed.

In view of the above, all objections and rejections have been sufficiently addressed. The Applicant submits that the application is now in condition for allowance and requests that claims 10-12 be allowed and this application passed to issue.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, Applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension together with any additional fees maybe charged to Deposit Account No. 02-2135.

If for any reason the Examiner determines that the application is not now in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact, by telephone, the Applicant's undersigned attorney at the indicated telephone number to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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